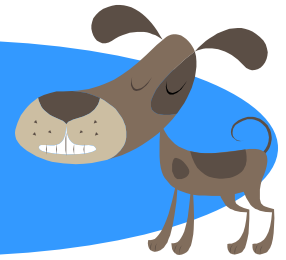


# Gimme Shelter

## News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County  
Department of  
Animal Care &  
Control



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## CARE Keeps Giving



Animal Care & Control's **CARE program** continues to help animals in need throughout Loudoun County. Currently, approximately 25 families receive monthly assistance through the "Animeals" program, which provides donated pet food to families in financial need.

During the Pet Pantry at the Holiday Coalition in December, nearly 500 families with over 900 pets received assistance with pet food, toys, and treats. Many of these families are also applying for help throughout the year, so the number of pet food

requests is expected to continue to grow.

"Animeals" runs solely on donations, coming from private citizens, school and scout groups, and businesses. The program is always in need of **dry dog and cat food**.

Donations can be brought to the Animal Shelter during normal business hours (the Animal Shelter is open Saturday—Wednesdays). Small donations can be brought to the mobile adoption vehicle at PETCO in Sterling on Thursdays from 3-7pm.



## Bunny Fun for Everyone

Easter is hopping around the corner! With all the fun and excitement, it's easy to overlook our pets. Follow these simple tips for a safe and happy holiday!

Many well meaning parents may want to give gifts of baby bunnies, chicks, or other animals as Easter gifts. While these animals are cute, often times after the excitement of the holiday wears off the animals end up in animal shelters looking for new homes. Bringing a pet into the family is an important decision that should be made thoughtfully, and with input from all members of the family. So if you're thinking of giving a bunny for Easter, make it a chocolate one or a stuffed toy.

Families looking to experience the fun of live "Easter bunnies" should join us at the **Bunny Bonanza on Wednesday, March**

**31 at the Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum** ([www.heritagefarmmuseum.org](http://www.heritagefarmmuseum.org)).

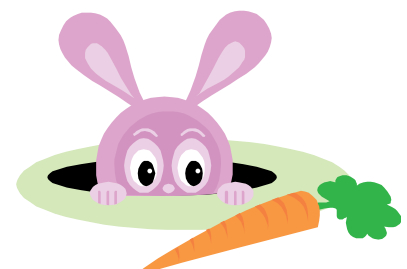
We'll have cute, cuddly bunnies for children to meet and touch, and they can learn about responsible pet ownership as well!

Easter is also a time to take care around the pets that we already have at home. Many plants that are popular at Easter time can be dangerous for pets. Easter lilies are especially toxic to cats, even if the cat eats just a small piece. Check out the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center ([www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)) for information on poisonous plants, as well as resources if you suspect your pet has ingested something he shouldn't.

Finally, keep Easter baskets well out of

your pet's reach. Plastic grasses, candy wrappers, and small plastic eggs can be hazardous to pets if swallowed. And chocolate can be deadly for dogs and cats. Keep baskets and decorations safely away from pets, and give them their own special Easter treat to enjoy!

Finally, please note that the Animal Shelter will be **open** for adoptions on Easter Sunday from 12-4pm. Hop on in!



## Kids Who Care



Animal Care & Control would like to give a big THANK YOU to Boy Scouts **Jake Phillips & Greg Garnhart**, who put on a fundraising drive for the Department and raised over \$130! Jake and Greg went door to door in their community, educating neighbors about the Animal Shelter. They then presented their check to Community Outreach Manager Laura Rizer at the shelter (above).

## Spring Has Sprung

The weather is finally warming up, and Spring seems to be here to stay. For many of us, this means seasonal allergies. But did you know that pets can suffer from spring allergies too? Allergies usually manifest themselves as itchy skin in dogs and cats. You might notice your pet scratching or licking himself constantly to try to get relief. That can lead to painful sores that can become infected.

If your pet seems to be scratching or licking more than usual, or losing hair, it is a good idea to make a trip to the vet. Your vet can do a skin test to check for allergies, and may prescribe medication to help relieve symptoms. Be sure not to

give your pet any human medicines without consulting your vet first!

Spring is also a good time to double check that everything around the house is safe for your pet. If you're doing lots of spring cleaning, use products that are non-toxic to animals, or keep pets away from areas that are being cleaned. Chemicals should be kept out of reach behind a closed door or high on a shelf.

If you're out in the garage, make sure that antifreeze is well out of reach of your pet, and that there are no spills or leaks coming from the car. Antifreeze is highly toxic to pets and can be dangerous in very small doses. A teaspoon of antifreeze can kill a small dog or cat.



Finally, on those lovely Spring walks, make sure that you are cleaning up after your pooch! Animal droppings carry all sorts of diseases that can transfer from animal to animal. Make sure that you are picking up your dog's messes, and also keep him from sniffing anyone else's. Happy Spring!

## March Employee of the Month

**Angie Robinson** is March's Employee of the Month! Angie is being recognized for her excellent and unselfish work as an Animal Care Technician. Her dedication to always putting the needs of the animals at the shelter first is outstanding. Her assistance with difficult customers, as well as her work cleaning and re-stocking the mobile adoption vehicle, is highly commendable. Angie also helped to design and write personality

descriptions for the cats at the shelter.

Her efforts and attitude have a direct impact on the entire operation and demonstrates her dedication and commitment to help and care for the animals housed at the animal shelter.

**Thank you Angie for all you do!**



## Congratulations Angie!

### What We're Up To

#### A Cool School

Thanks to the third grade students at **Sycolin Creek Elementary** who were a great audience for a presentation on animals on March 8. **Animal Control Officers Chris Brosan & Lisa Shaw** taught the kids all about wild animals, pets, and animal control. And "B.P." the snake made a surprise guest appearance!

#### Mobile Adoptions Keep Rolling

Don't forget the mobile adoption vehicle stops **every Thursday** from **3:00-7:00pm** at the **Petco** in the **Dulles 28 Centre** (at the intersection of Rt 28 and Waxpool Road). If you're looking for a pet, and can't make it out to Waterford, this is a great opportunity to visit! Be sure to stop by and see us!

